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Memorandum of Conversation

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SUBJECT:

U.S.-Communist China Warsaw Talks

DATE: January 14, 1969; 12:30

San Souci Restaurant
Washington, D.C.

PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Donald M. Anderson, EA/ACA

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1. purpose in inviting me to lunch was hardly a mystery. He has been asking around town, on the Hill and elsewhere, about the forthcoming Warsaw meeting and about possible changes in U.S. attitudes towards Peking. After some small talk, asked if I thought that Wang Kuo-ch'uan would be back in Warsaw for the meeting to which I replied that he was in a much better position to know than I was. He expressed ignorance of Wang's plans, but commented that some Chinese Ambassadors had returned to their posts recently. I expressed interest in his comment, and he continued that he "had heard" that the Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia was back, and "he thought" the Ambassador to Berlin "might be back". He also mentioned Cairo, but I noted that Huang Hua had remained at post throughout the exodus of diplomatic personnel back to Peking. replied rather positively that five ambassadors have recently returned to their posts.

2. Former Ambassador to Poland, Wang P'ing-nan was the next topic of conversation, with commenting that he had heard from one of his friends at the Polish Embassy in Peking that Wang had been sent down to the countryside near Shanghai, but that he had recently turned up again in Peking. said that Wang apparently had returned to the Foreign Ministry, but that his position was still unclear. He commented in passing that Chen Yi is now back in good graces and in full charge at the Foreign Ministry.

3. commented that it appeared that the Cultural Revolution was now over and that the Party was in the process of being restored. I agreed that, since National Day we had felt that the Cultural Revolution was tapering off. I suggested that the upcoming party congress would probably provide more information on the subject, and asked if he had heard when it would be held. replied rather confidently, "in the spring, April or May".

DM Anderson, EA/ACA
17/15/69

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4. Turning to Warsaw, [] commented that the Chinese November 26 announcement that they were prepared to resume the talks and their comments on peaceful coexistence had aroused considerable interest. The note, he commented, suggested at least a change in methods on the part of Peking. I agreed that there was an appearance of greater tactical flexibility involved in their proposal, noting that such a statement would probably have been impossible a year ago. [] then broached the question of the probable outcome of the talks from a variety of angles, suggesting a number of motives on Peking's part for wanting to talk, and suggesting that we might want to take up a number of questions. I listened to his suggestions and agreed only that we would probably discuss prisoners.

[] was primarily interested in the possibility that Peking is now prepared to consider accepting some concrete proposals leading to increased contacts, particularly in the economic sector. The major area where progress could be made, he said, is in trade. The Chinese must now be thinking of how they can acquire the technology and capital equipment necessary for rapid industrialization. Relations with the Soviets and East Europe have gotten steadily worse, and the only country that can satisfy their needs is the United States. He suggested that we might first eliminate our embargo on China, then allow Ex-Im Bank financing of large contracts, and then later proceed to consular relations. I replied that I thought he was going a lot further than anyone considers possible in the foreseeable future, and reminded him that the Chinese note had also pointed out that they would never compromise "principles" for the sake of agreement on the "side issues" raised by the United States. [] then asked directly whether, if the Chinese should propose some form of agreement based on the five principles, we would have any counter-proposals to offer. I replied that, since they had issued the statement, it was really up to the Chinese but we would be prepared to listen to what they had to say.

5. I commented that on our trips to Warsaw we had met two journalists who had been in China and had found them very interesting. I mentioned that we had hoped to meet some of the China specialists in the Foreign Ministry on our last trip, but it had not worked out. [] remarked that their Ambassador to Peking Rodzinsky was now in Poland suffering from a very difficult type of tuberculosis and was living outside of Warsaw. He said that a friend of his, whose name I didn't catch, is now in charge of Asian affairs and his deputy is a former [] in Peking. [] said that he was sure his friend would like to talk to us and suggested that our Embassy in Warsaw make the arrangements. He also asked how long we would be available in Warsaw, but he made no offer to arrange a meeting.

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